

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application, with claim 2 withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0025] of the original specification. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims in view of at least the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,774,935 (Morimoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,624 (Kuno). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action acknowledges that Morimoto fails to disclose when the first digital camera detects the instruction from the first controller while the first digital camera is controlled by the second controller, the first digital camera stores the instruction from the first controller and only executes the instruction from the first controller after completion of the control of the first digital camera by the second controller, as previously recited in claim 1. The Office Action alleges that the combination of Morimoto with Kuno cures Morimoto's deficiency. Applicants assert that Kuno does not cure Morimoto's deficiency where the claimed instruction is about taking a photograph, as currently recited in claim 1.

Kuno's Fig. 5 illustrates a flowchart showing the controlling step of the camera control server. As discussed on page 6 of the pending Office Action, Kuno's message obtaining unit 11d receives a message at step S1 that is transferred to the control-privilege managing unit 11c (C5:L4-6). The control-privilege managing unit 11c determines the type of the message based on the message ID included in the message at step S2 (C5:L6-8). Of the three disclosed message ID types, when the message ID is a camera-control-privilege obtain request (ID="1"), the client ID is added to the camera control queue at step S9 (C5:L8-13). Kuno's

Fig. 3 illustrates the camera control queue, with elements C21-C23 denoting the client IDs in the order of the camera control (C4:L22-30).

The Office Action alleges that the client ID being added to the end of the camera control queue when a camera-control-privilege obtain request is received from a client ID that is not on the list constitutes the above-recited feature because control will eventually be given to the client ID once the top client ID no longer has control. However, a client ID sending a camera-control-privilege obtain request does not constitute sending and storing in the queue "information about taking a photograph," as currently recited in claim 1. Thus, adding the client ID in the camera control queue fails to reasonably disclose the above recited feature of claim 1 where the recited information is about taking a photograph.

Kuno's disclosure regarding a camera control request also fails to disclose the above recited feature, where the information is about taking a photograph, for at least the following two reasons.

First, Kuno discloses that when a client is at the top of the camera control queue and sends a camera control request, the camera control request is sent to the camera control unit and executed (C5:L14-22). Thus, the camera control request is executed without being stored.

Second, Kuno discloses that if the client that sent the camera control request is not at the top of the camera control queue, the control-privilege managing unit 11c determines whether a control-privilege possessing time of the current top of the camera control queue exceeds a predetermined time period t at step S4 (C5:L22-26). When the possessing time is less than the predetermined time period t , Kuno discloses that the camera control request is discarded to let the current top request continuously keep the control privilege (C5:L28-33). When the possessing time is greater than the predetermined time period t , the top of the camera control queue is substituted for an argument id and the subroutine SubA is executed

(C5:L34-38). Executing the subroutine SubA updates the top of the camera control queue so that a client who has issued a camera control request may become the top of the camera control queue and the camera control request is executed without being stored (C6:L7-10).

As discussed above regarding the first and second reasons, Kuno fails to disclose that a camera control request from a client who is not currently at the top of the queue is stored and only executed after completion of the control of the camera at the top of the camera control queue. Thus, Kuno's camera control request also fails to disclose, "wherein when the first digital camera detects the instruction about taking a photograph from the first controller while the first digital camera is controlled by the second controller, the first digital camera stores the instruction about taking the photograph from the first controller and only executes the instruction about taking the photograph from the first controller, which is stored in the first digital camera, after completion of the control of the first digital camera by the second controller," as currently recited in claim 1.

Because Kuno fails to cure the above-noted deficiency of Morimoto, claim 1 is allowable over Morimoto in view of Kuno. Claims 3 and 4 are also allowable over Morimoto in view of Kuno for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features the claims recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Because claims 1, 3 and 4 are allowable based on the discussion above, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn claim 2 under MPEP §821.04 by virtue of claim 2's dependency from allowable independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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